

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell released the following statement regarding President Barack Obama's announcement to deploy 1,200 National Guard troops to the Border:

"While I am pleased the President will be sending additional National Guard troops to the border, I believe we need much more. Adding 1,200 National Guard troops is a start, but it is going to take much more to secure the border.

I have offered bipartisan legislation to deploy a minimum of at least 3,000 additional National Guard troops to the border, and am offering an amendment to the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act for FY2011 to do the same.

Arizona continues to pay a huge price for the federal government's failure to secure the border. Here in the Phoenix metropolitan area, smugglers and Mexican drug cartels have set up drop houses, which are magnets for crime and violence. So much so, Phoenix has become a kidnapping capital."

Previously, Mitchell has:

- Offered an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act to extend the National Guard's deployment as part of Operation Jump Start. The amendment was ultimately blocked from floor consideration. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , May 20, 2008]

- Called upon the President to bring National Guard troops back to the border to help fight the growing threat posed by Mexican drug cartels. In 2007 and again in 2008, Mitchell wrote to President Bush to ask him to extend the National Guard's deployment as part of Operation Jump Start. [Sources: [Mitchell Release](#) , August 9, 2007; [Mitchell Release](#) , May 7, 2008; [Green Valley](#)

[News & Sun](#)
, May 21, 2008]

- Wrote to President Obama to request National Guard troops be placed on the border.

[Sources: [Letter to President](#) , March 25, 2009; [Letter to the President](#) , March 30, 2010; [Mitchell Release](#) , July 6, 2009].

- Teamed with Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-Cal.) to amend the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill to secure millions of dollars in additional funding for security improvements at the border. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , Oct. 29, 2009]

- Commissioned a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation to examine federal efforts to identify and remove criminal aliens and combat drop houses which act as way stations act as way stations for drugs and humans smuggled across the border. The results of this multi-year investigation are expected by early summer 2010. [Source: [Mitchell Release](#) , April 26, 2010]

###